

## CORRECTED VERSION

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
20 January 2005 (20.01.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/006757 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **H04N 7/24, 5/00**

(21) International Application Number:  
**PCT/EP2004/004795**

(22) International Filing Date: **6 May 2004 (06.05.2004)**

(25) Filing Language: **English**

(26) Publication Language: **English**

(30) Priority Data:  
**03015991.7 14 July 2003 (14.07.2003) EP**

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

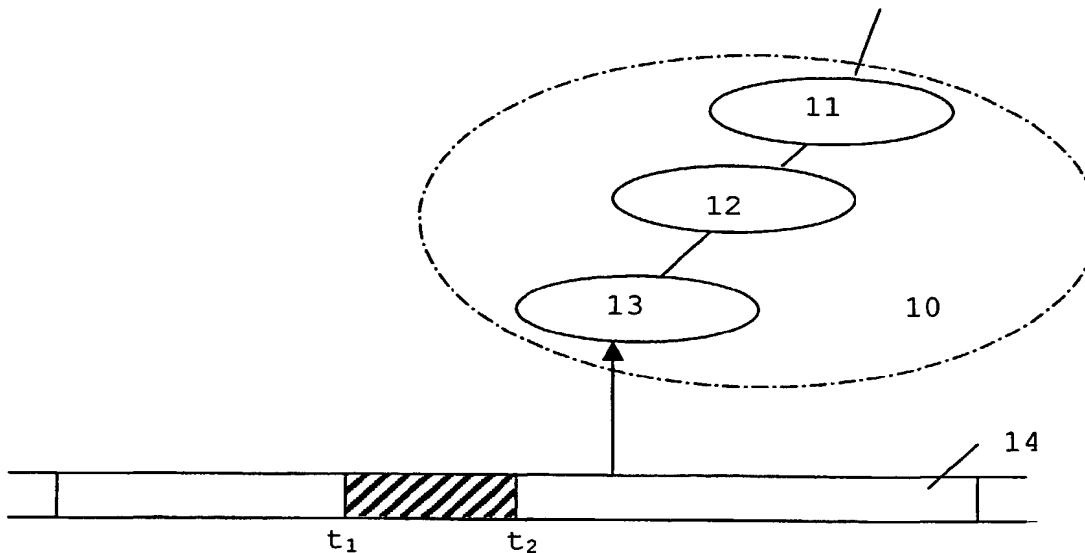
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DECODING A DATA STREAM IN AUDIO VIDEO STREAMING SYSTEMS



**WO 2005/006757 A1**

(57) Abstract: A method for decoding a data stream containing audio/video substreams (14) and control substreams comprises buffering nodes (12) having the possibility to buffer multiple data packets in the same buffer. This may be achieved by having separate parameters for the allocated buffer size and any stored packet. Thus, not only multiple packets may be stored in the buffering node (12), but also such node may exist while its buffer is empty, so that the node may be reused later. This is particularly useful for buffering and selectively accessing multiple audio packets in MPEG-4 audio nodes or sound nodes.



(48) Date of publication of this corrected version:

24 March 2005

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(15) Information about Correction:

see PCT Gazette No. 12/2005 of 24 March 2005, Section II